

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of retrieving desired phone number information using ~~an network~~ Internet protocol, comprising the steps of:
receiving, via user input entered a user entering to the an electronic device, ~~a network an~~ Internet address of a party whose phone number information is to be retrieved;
~~the electronic device~~ sending a request from the electronic device to a at least one of an email server and a web server in accordance with the ~~network~~ Internet protocol, the request containing a predictable variant of said address; and
in response to the request, receiving from the at least one of an the email and the web server sending the desired phone number information to the electronic device.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the desired phone number information ~~is comprises~~ a single phone number, comprising the further step of the electronic device automatically dialing the ~~desired single~~ phone number.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the desired phone number information ~~is comprises~~ a hypertext phone directory page, comprising the further step of the electronic device displaying the hypertext phone directory page.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, comprising the further steps of:
in response to the user selecting a link within the hypertext phone directory page; and,
the electronic device cooperating with the server to retrieve and display a further hypertext phone directory page.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, comprising the further steps of:

in response to the user selecting a single phone number within the hypertext phone directory page; and

the electronic device automatically dialing the selected phone number.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a desired telecommunications connection, comprising the steps of:

~~inputting-receiving~~ a character string entered by a user;

determining whether or not the character string is-comprises a telephone number;

~~if the string is a telephone number, establishing the desired telecommunications connection directly using the telephone number;~~

~~if the character string is not a telephone number~~ comprises an Internet address,

establishing a preliminary telecommunications connection;

~~using the telephone number~~ character string during the course of the preliminary telecommunications connection; ~~and~~

~~using the telephone number~~ to establish the desired telecommunications connection;

receiving the telephone number from the desired telecommunications connection;

setting the telephone number as the character string; and

if the character string comprises a telephone number,

establishing the desired telecommunications connection directly using the telephone number.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the character string is an email address and the preliminary telecommunication connection is established with an email server in accordance with an email protocol ~~such as Simple Mail Transfer Protocol.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the string is a resource locator and the preliminary telecommunications connection is established with a hyper-media server in accordance with a hyper-media protocol ~~such as Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol.~~

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic system comprising:
a data processing core, including memory;
coupled to the data processing core:
a modem;
a circuit-switched telecommunications transceiver;
a packet-switched telecommunications transceiver; and
I/O circuitry;
the combination further comprising stored program instructions within memory including instructions for:
~~inputting~~ receiving a character string entered by a user;
~~determining whether or not the character string is a telephone number;~~
~~if the string is a telephone number, establishing the desired~~
~~telecommunications connection directly using the telephone number;~~
~~if the character string is not~~ comprises an Internet address ~~a telephone~~
~~number,~~
establishing a preliminary telecommunications connection using
the character string;
~~receiving a~~ the telephone number during the course of the
preliminary telecommunications connection;
setting the telephone number as the character string; and
at least one of displaying the telephone number or ~~and~~ using the
telephone number to establish the desired telecommunications connection;
and
if the character string comprises ~~is the~~ a telephone number,
establishing thea desired telecommunications connection directly
using the telephone number.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the electronic system is a smart cellular telephone.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the electronic system is a personal computer configured to be coupled to the public switched telephone network.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the electronic system is a smart deskset telephone configured to be coupled to the public switched telephone network.

13. (Currently Amended) An electronic system for use in establishing a desired telecommunications connection, comprising:

a data processing core, including memory;

coupled to the data processing core:

a packet-switched telecommunications transceiver; and

I/O circuitry;

the combination further comprising stored program instructions within memory including instructions for:

receiving an Internet address of a desired party entered by a user ~~into the an~~
~~electronic device;~~

sending a request to at least one of an email server and a web server in accordance with an Internet protocol, the request containing a predictable variant of said Internet address; and

receiving from ~~the~~ at least one of the email server and the web server a communication string of the desired party.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing communication with a party using an electronic device, comprising:

transparently prefacing the communication with a network communications exchange, established based on an ~~electronic~~ Internet address of the party with which communication is to be established, to obtain information for communicating with said party;

sending a request to at least one of an email server and a web server in accordance with an Internet protocol, the request containing a predictable variant of said Internet address; and

connecting the electronic device being connected to communicate for communication
with said party using said information.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the information is a telephone number.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the information is a cryptographic key.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14, comprising enabling a user inputting to the electronic device to input the electronic address of the party with which communication is to be established.
18. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the e-mail protocol is a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol.
19. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the hyper-media protocol is a Hyper-Text Transfer Protocol.
20. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein the character string is at least one of an email address and a URL.